



The Bethany Banner

Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
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January 2019

A Word From the Pastor's Study

Something to consider as we begin a new year comes both from our time in Ezekiel 34 and our continuing sermon series in the Book of Acts, and that is the question about the difference between a false shepherd and a true shepherd. Error was a problem in Israel and the early Church. Our time must begin by asking how can we tell which is which?

Our Lord Jesus in the beginning of Matthew 16 has just completed feeding the four thousand and then is immediately confronted by the attacks of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Intermixed in this is a warning and a rebuke to the disciples to beware of the "leaven" of these false teachers. Now what is "leaven"? Leaven is an outside substance that is placed in dough that causes it to rise. Why would Jesus use this particular illustration to help the disciples understand the problems that are caused by the Pharisees and Sadducees? Well the primary difficulty that these men pose to the disciples is

that they have introduced things not commanded by God into the worship and life of the people of God. They have, by their introduction of these "outside" substances, added "leaven" to what the word of God teaches. The Sadducees and Pharisees had both violated the prescription of Deuteronomy 12:32, that they were neither to take away (as the Sadducees had done in denying the resurrection) nor add to (as the Pharisees had done with their unbiblical traditions) the Bible. Jesus is warning the disciples to stay away from those who either dismiss aspects of the Bible that they do not like or those who, by their own wisdom, add to what God has declared in His Word.

We must be very careful to check everything that we hear by the testimony of the Word of God and by the confessions that we as a Presbyterian Church have agreed to in order to ensure that we are protected from the leaven of unrighteous teaching.



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Sunday Preaching Schedule

January 6 Acts 4:1-12
January 13 Acts 4:13-31
January 20 Acts 4:32-37
January 27 Acts 5:1-11

Bible Reading Plan for Month

Dec. 30-Jan.5 Exodus 36-40
January 6-12 Romans 1-5
January 13-19 Romans 6-10
January 20-26 Romans 11-16
January 27-Feb. 2 Ruth 1-4

Important Dates for January

Deacon's Meeting January 6
Christian Education Comm. January 8
Session Meeting January 10
Women of the Church January 13
Rev. Glaser @ Erskine Jan. 14-18
Ice Skating Party Jan. 25 or Feb. 1
Mission and Outreach Comm. TBA

Larger Catechism Question

WLC Question Q#5

Q. 5. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Missionary of the Month

Christ's Church is a missionary church, seeking to grow the Kingdom by the means of grace. This month we would like to highlight the work of Justin and Gillian Brickey. The Brickey's are well known to Bethany and in 2019 they will continue their work in Spain. Particular prayer requests are that some issues that have come up with the Spanish government and schooling be fixed, that God may work His blessing through the home Bible Studies, and the local church in Asturias as they assist in the ministry.



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Youth Corner Announcements

Ice Skating trip will either be **January 25th** or **February 1st**. Please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. We will meet at the church at **6:00pm** for pizza and then leave at **6:30pm** to go to Pineville Ice Centre. Price is \$2 for pizza and \$8 for skating. Please note whether you are meeting us at the rink or will be going from church.

- Happy 9th Birthday to Owen S.!

Thank-you again to all those who gave gifts, prayed for, and went up to Sneedville to hand out the gifts for our annual mission. Please continue to be in prayer for the good folks in Appalachia.

"...and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."

1 Peter 5:4

Session Report

The session met on Dec. 6th for their regular stated meeting. Issues on the table were the upcoming congregational meeting, deacon projects, changes to Christian Education, and on several pastoral needs in the church.

Prayer was held for all.

Deacon's Report

The deacons met on Dec. 2nd and brought an update on the fence for the play area and discussed the first bid for a new playground. Also on the agenda were two ongoing projects at the manse and food options and the devotional for the Men's Supper on January 12th.

Christian Education Report

Christian Education did not meet in the month of December, but is looking forward to an exciting 2019 as we bring on some new faces & plans for this year!

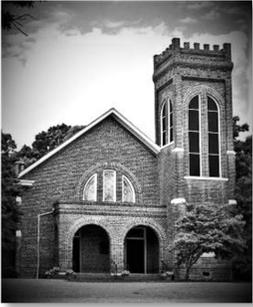
Wednesday Prayer Meeting

On Wednesday's we are currently reading portions of Scripture, which may not be as well-known as others, for a time of devotion and refreshment. We invite you to join with us at 6:30pm!

Sunday Evening Bible Study

Our bible study continued to meet at the end of the Lord's Day at the beginning of December. We continue in our look at the book of Revelation and will be in ch's 17-21 this month. As we come to a close soon in Revelation we are looking for ideas as to where to go next. ☺

We welcome all to come and join us!



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Monthly Prayer Requests

We will continue to be in prayer for a presbytery and nation that we will covenant to prayer for through this month. We are going to highlight Second Presbytery, and the nation and people of Denmark.

Prayer Needs:

Dollie Douglas, Hayes Faulkner, Janice Patterson, Patrick Patterson, Winifred Callister, Peggy Wells, Theodore McClure, Garland Davidson, Geneva Smith, Bible Release Time, Appalachia mission and the children of Sneedville, TN, Good News Club, Andrew Brunson, Rose Knight, Kenneth Moses, Holly Keyes, , Sarah Faulkner,, John Bailey, and Samantha Johnson. Spiritual warfare, the President, end to abortion, missionaries, church planters, and all our friends and family.

Psalm of the Month

What shall I render to the LORD
For all His benefits toward me?
I will take up the cup of salvation,
And call upon the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD, NOW
in the presence of all His
people. Precious in the sight of
the LORD *Is* the death of His saints.
O LORD, truly I *am* Your servant;
I *am* Your servant, the son of Your
maidservant; You have loosed my
bonds. I will offer to You the sacrifice
of thanksgiving, and will call upon
the name of the LORD..”

– Psalm 116:12-17

Devotional Verses

Isaiah 65:24-25

“It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust *shall be* the serpent’s food. they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.

Communion Schedule for 2019

February 3, 2019

April 21, 2019

June 2, 2019

August 4, 2019

October 6, 2019

December 22, 2019